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Three Swept Away As Flood Sacks Hundreds

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Posted on Aug 31 2016 - 2:36am by **Camillus Nnaji, Taiwo Jimoh, Tobi Ayinde And Farida Mohammed** Views: 573

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At least three persons were swept away while hundreds of houses were submerged by furious flood in parts of Lagos and Ogun states following

torrential rains. In Ketu Alapere and Ikosi area alone, two persons were swept away while over 200 houses were flooded on Sunday.

Also, a 56-year-old man, identified as John, was swept away at Isawo area of Ikorodu. John's body was, according to residents, found floating on the community river yesterday.

When his family members could not locate him, they reported the incident to the police. Mr. Alaba Peter, a resident of the area said, it was a sad movement for John's family members and the community.

He said: "The deceased went to a party in the neighbourhood only for him to be washed away by the flood while returning home. It was some people who live close to the canal that saw him when he was being swept away who later informed his family members." The downpour started about 10:30p.m. on Saturday and rained all through the night. It only stopped about 4p.m. on Sunday.

This came as some of residents of Owoade and Bakare streets in Alapere said they stood on their wall units and shelves all through the night. The flood also rendered hundreds of residents homeless in communities in Ogun and Lagos states.

Two persons, one identified simply as Toyib who was a carpenter and a yet-to-be identified man of northern extraction, who lived in shanties on Ketu- Mile 12 waterway, were said to have been swept away by the flood. While Toyib was being carried away by the flood, the second man dived into the canal to rescue him. Both of them did not make it and

their bodies have not been recovered. The incident occurred on Aisatu Street at Ikosi area of Ketu.

At Agiliti and Oluwabukunmi area, many houses collapsed while others were flooded. Household items such as television sets, refrigerators, mattresses and furniture as well as clothes were staked outside houses. A resident, who identified himself as Emma, said they had not experienced such type of downpour. He said: “The rains started on Saturday night, we thought it was joke. People went to bed but not knowing the rains would persist.

“Those who live on waterways were badly affected. The two persons who died were living inside shanties near the canal. Over 100 houses were flooded that night.” At Owoade Bakare Street, about 70 houses were filled with water.

The level of the flood was about three metre high. Churches such as the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), His Majesty Chapel and Christ Chapel as well as Miracle Outreach International were taken over by flood. It was learnt that worshippers on Sunday were made to congregate at a nearby shop for service. Yesterday, many people were packing out their belongings while others abandoned their houses and fled.

One of the families sacked from their houses on Bakare Street, said they stood on top of their wall units and shelves all through the night. Head of the family, Mr. Malik, said the ordeal had traumatised them.

He said: “From midnight till about 6a.m., we stood on the cupboard to avoid stepping on water. The water reached our waists. We had to bail out water throughout the day. Government should help us and construct water channels.” A resident, who identified himself as Mr. Chima, said the road had not been passable in the last seven months owing to water flowing out from the canal.

He said: “People have dumped refuse in the canal which has blocked the water channels. So, on a day like this, with heavy flooding, the water has no other channel than to enter houses, compounds and streets.

“Again the construction of houses here is not good. Some houses are built on waterways. That is risky. We are appealing to the Lagos State government and Agboyi Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) to come and assist us.” A public relations practitioner, Mrs. Omozele Mohammed, at Denro Ishasi, Akute in Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State, said that the rain destroyed a lot of structures.

A foodstuff seller, Mrs. Chioma Ayanwu, said: “The rain prevented many people from going to church and their places of work. The roads are flooded.” A civil servant, who gave her name as Mrs. Iyabo, said: “There is no disaster in our area. We have only flood. I feel the three-day rainfall was caused by climate change.”

Another resident, Mr. Kehinde Olorunishola, living at Ajenlanwa, Ipaja area of Lagos metropolis, said anytime it rained, the roads would become impassable. He said: “Our homes usually become flooded.

There was a day it rained heavily. It started about 1:30a.m. I couldn't sleep that night. My whole room was like a swimming pool. My bed was like bread soaked in water. "These days, anytime it rains, I know that at least one of my property would be destroyed. I don't have anywhere else to go, so I endure it. I don't know the cause of the flooding of our apartments. But I know that our area has drainages."

Olorunishola said that for the three-day rainfall, fortunately didn't flood homes. It, however, left community muddy and slippery.

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